

Saugerties Public Library
Regular Board Meeting
Date: 2/8/24

Present: Trustees Katie Cokinos, Jouette Bassler,, Charlotte Herscher, Paul Vanbenschoten, Brian Collins, Nina Schmidbaur, Timothy Scott, Irene Hurst, Julie Misiano, Robert Irizarry

Excused: Trustees Yosefa Karchmar

Staff: Director Jennifer Russell

Public Attendees: Ray Rebholz

Meeting called to order at 6:02 PM by President Tim Scott

Public Comment:

Friends of Library: Their last meeting was on January 22, 2024, which was attended by the Library Director. The Friends approved the Director's "wish list". Next meeting will be on March 18th, 7PM in the library's community room . Membership is up and attendance at the meetings is up. Will begin to plan the Street Fair at that meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- **Advocacy Day:** The Children's Programmer, Board President and Library Director attended NYLA Advocacy Day at the state capital. Met with staff from Senator Hinchey's and Representative Shrestha's office . Four hundred library advocates came out to support the importance of libraries throughout the state. Their goal is to obtain additional funding for the MHL System directly from the state, in addition to the local libraries that contribute to the system. They are also seeking funds for the building/renovation fund. They also discussed a proposal to revamp the civil service rules for libraries, which limits hours and other parameters for library staff. There are politicians working on that proposal. They also hope to avoid losing funding for online databases for which the state currently pays, which are very expensive, and which will expire June 30, 2024.
- **Sexual Harassment Training:** Trustees are reminded to complete the sexual harrassment training. You should all have received a link from the Director. Please send her the certificate of completion.

New Business:

1. N/A

Secretary's Report:

Motion by Irene Rivera Hurst and *Second* by Nina Schmidbaur to approve the minutes as written.

Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer's Report:

Motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$ 28,189.74 made by Charlotte Herscher, seconded by Tim Scott. Passes unanimously

Director's Report: Please see the report included in the Meeting Packet.

- Responding to an RFP from Bank of Greene County
- Books as Art will be on display commencing March 1st.
- PARP
- Craft and Hobby Database added to UCLA services available to patrons

Committee Reports:

Finance: met on January 30, 2024

- Reviewed outstanding checks from last year to facilitate resolution
- Want to change certain bills to EFT to avoid late fees
- Want to resolve some banking issues.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: February 27, 2024 at 6PM

Personnel/Policy: met on January 17, 2024

- ★ Worked on revising the vacation policy
- ★ Continued reviewing for revising the By-Laws

Personnel chairperson opened discussion of the plan to revise the vacation policy:

-Jouette Bassler made a motion to approve the changing of the verbiage in #6 of the policy to reflect that new hires may take vacation time beginning after their third month of service. Seconded by Nina Schmidbaur. Passes unanimously.

-Jouette Bassler made a motion to approve the changing of the verbiage in #4 to reflect that the director will notify the president or the vice president prior to taking any vacation time. Seconded by Nina Schmidbaur. Passes unanimously.

-Jouette Bassler made a motion to change the years of service a staff member has to complete, in order to accrue increased vacation time. She also made a motion to change the amount of vacation time per years of service, to be listed in days rather than weeks of vacation. Seconded by Brian Collins. Passes unanimously.

-Jouette Bassler made a motion to reflect that for vacation accrual amounts per year, will take into account the years of service a staff member may have had as a full-time librarian prior to hire date. Seconded by Julie Misiano. Passes unanimously.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: February 21, 2024 at 6PM

Facilities: met on January 2, 2024

- Repairs previously requisitioned have been completed.
- New repairs/cleaning needs have been identified
- Want to replace some lighting
- Electrical repairs being scheduled

Paul VanBenschoten opened discussion of repairs/improvements that will be needed in the coming years. Several of these may be costly. He wanted to discuss what board members may think are priorities, in the event that we have to delay and/or stagger the completion of these repairs. Further discussion will be made once estimates have been received.

see minutes FMI Next meeting: February 6, 2024 at 4PM

Outreach: met on January 22 at 5:30PM

- ❖ Books as Art Projects: establish some talking points to help artists prepare to discuss their work. Opening night will be Friday March 1st at 5 PM. There will be 26 adult artists participating and 10 high school students.
- ❖ Began planning for engaging community for the Five-Year Plan

see minutes FMI Next meeting: February 26 at 5:30 PM

Friends Liaison:

N/A

Motion to adjourn at 7:16 by Tim Scott, *seconded* by Charlotte Herscher
Passes unanimously.

Submitted by Julie Misiano

Next meeting: March 14, 2024 at 6PM